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In *Beloved*, Denver was a child who was isolated from her community due to circumstances. It actually was Denver herself who was unwilling to leave 124 in fear of her mother and the outside world. Denver’s fear of stepping outside caused her to stay inside the house for sixteen years with no companionship except her mother and the ghost when Baby Suggs died. Until the appearance of Beloved, Denver was lonely. As Denver takes care of Beloved and her mother, she slowly grows more independent and mature to starting thinking for herself and was even willing to leave the house to find help and support. Although Denver was young, lonely, and dependent of her mother at the beginning of the novel, Denver slowly changed and became an independent lady who thought of a new life for herself.

Until Denver was six years old, she was able to go outside and learn from Mrs. Jones but after she was asked by another student if she remembered being in jail with her mother, Denver then knew the truth of her mother killing her sister and attempt murder of her and her brothers. Ever since then, Denver was unwilling to leave her house. Denver fears her mother might want to kill her again because of the same reason as before. “Whatever it is, it comes from outside the house, outside the yard…So I never leave this house and I watch over the yard, so it can’t happen again and my mother won’t have to kill me too.” (242) Denver never left the house fearing her mother will want to kill her if her mother becomes affected again.

After sixteen years of living in 124 with her mother, not stepping outside, Denver was quiet and lonely. “Hot, shy, now Denver was lonely. All that leaving: first her brothers, then her grandmother-serious losses since there were no children willing to circle her in a game or hang by their knees from her porch railing.” (14) All her families left except her mother and she doesn’t have any friends to play with. Denver wants to leave 124 but fears the outside world. She believes herself to be stuck in the house forever.

The only companion Denver found was the ghost of her dead murdered sister. Denver doesn’t see the danger of having a dead baby ghost in the house. “None could appreciate the safety of ghost company.” (45) While her brothers ran away and her mother ignoring it, Denver accepted it and makes it a company. When Paul D. first appeared, Denver was not accustomed to Paul D. and disliked him for taking her mother and scaring the ghost away. “Now her mother was upstairs with the man who had gotten rid of the only other company she had.” (23) Denver’s only companion was the ghost and was lonely again after Paul D. appeared.

When Beloved appeared, Denver finds a new light in life. Beloved serves as a companion and as a figure of affection whom Denver takes care of and protects. “Leave us alone, Ma’am. I’m taking care of her.” (65) Denver knows Beloved was her dead sister and believed that this time, she will protect her sister from her mother. As Denver takes care of Beloved and her mother, she changed. As Sethe and Beloved needed to be taken care of, Denver takes of role of a care-giver. “Denver served them both. Washing, cooking, forcing, cajoling her mother to eat a little now and then…” (295) Denver takes care of them both and changed herself along the way. “Plotting has changed Denver markedly. Where she was once indolent, resentful of every task, now she is spry, executing, even extending the assignments…” (142) Denver slowly changed from a quiet dependent child to a young lady able to make decisions in life.

After Denver saw her mother changed and becoming weaker due to taking care of Beloved, Denver believed Beloved was there to harm Sethe. Denver finally leaves her house in search of a job and help. Denver was fearful of the outside community believing they still ostracized her mother and her but slowly, Denver realized that it was just her own thinking. Denver was able to get help from the community and save her mother. Denver’s mind changed as she receives help from the community and started thinking for herself; to leave 124 and seek a job out somewhere. “It was a new thought, having a self to look out for and preserve.” (297) Denver finally thought of herself after all those years of staying in the dark. In the end, Denver was ready to leave her old world behind and toward a new path with “her face looking like someone had turned up the gas jet”. (314) Denver changed from a girl to a mature young lady ready to live a new life.

My question: If Beloved never arrived at 124 and stayed as a companion for Denver, can Denver changed into the new character she becomes at the end of the novel?